

PHILS' POOR DEFENSIVE WORK COSTS VALUABLE GAMES—"A RAIN CHECK," BY VAN LOAN

WEAK FIELDING STARTS PHILLIES SKIDDING—THREE GAMES DONATED

Captain Luderus Fails to Enforce Fielding Instruction and Mixups Occur—Young Mamanu, of Pittsburgh, Pitching Sensation of Season.

It has been remarked frequently that a team which plays up-to-date baseball gets the breaks, and for this reason a championship club is always considered lucky by the players and fans of the seven rival cities in each league.

When a team has excellent pitching it has a better chance to force the breaks, because one or two runs usually means victory, and a failure of an offensive move on one occasion does not upset the team as easily.

The Phillies have looked bad many times recently when trying to force these breaks, and since some games have been lost because of the failure of this style of attack, it has been argued that the team has played bad baseball.

Trouble With Phillies Is in Defensive Work

A bad batting slump that lasted more than a month held the Phillies back somewhat; but the point is that the great weakness in the Philly play is in the defense and not in the offense.

Playing batmen wrong and throwing to the wrong base on safe hits have been serious drawbacks. These facts do not show in the box score, but they have lost ball games.

Perhaps it will be argued that the opposing teams have been scoring but few runs. That is true, but they have been scoring more than they should with the brand of pitching that has been shown by the Phillies' staff.

Basemen Tip Off Batters to Pitching

When the team was in a batting slump, it was generally believed that it would wade through the other teams as soon as the sluggers found their batting eye, but it has become apparent that the fault is more with the defense than the offense.

Early in the season it was a rare occurrence to see this play used against the Phillies, but the opposing teams are evidently wise, and it is becoming more successful every day.

Still Another "Should-have-been-a-victory" Story

Yesterday the Phillies threw away another game because the team is still not quite the smooth machine necessary to stay in the pennant race to the finish. Too many of these "should-have-been-a-victory" contests have taken place at Philly Park this season already, and it is to be hoped there will be no more like the game with the Pirates yesterday.

Every ball club must make misplays at some stage of the game, and there is always an excuse for an error when a fielder makes a legitimate attempt to handle a ball, but when two players stand still, and watch a fly ball fall safe through a misunderstanding it is time to find out where the trouble lies.

Duty of Captain to Enforce Fielding Instructions

Luderus is captain of the team and should call out clearly and loudly for some one to try for the ball, and that man should go through with it under any condition. To date, those in the press box have not heard Luderus' voice.

Niehoff has been in two of the plays recently where the ball fell safely between two fielders, and in each instance it seemed that he had called for a ball that was entirely out of his territory.

That hustling spirit is appreciated, but it is sometimes bad for a club, as the Athletics discovered when Eddie Collins went out into right field once too often for balls that were out of his territory.

Had Bancroft Held the Ball, Well—

A little pop fly from Baird's bat fell between Niehoff and Luderus yesterday and started a rally that won the game for Pittsburgh. Baird received credit for a hit, and he moved to third on Wagner's single, after Hinchman had fanned.

Young Al Mamanu, who was on the mound for the Pirates, twirled a beautiful game. He was never in danger until the last two innings, and he pulled out of both holes himself by clever pitching.

Another Ty Cobb and Another Rube Waddell—Maybe

President Hedges, of the St. Louis Browns, declares he has another Ty Cobb in George Sisler, the University of Michigan star, who has been alternating between first base and pitching since joining St. Louis.

Last season, when big Gus Williams went off to a good start at the bat, in the field and on the bases, the Browns' president gave out a long statement in which he predicted that Williams would be a greater outfielder than Cobb before the close of the 1914 season.

Watch the Cubs! The great Heinie Zimmerman again has promised to be good. After a recent game, in which Zimmerman kicked himself out to the detriment of his team, the Cubs gathered around him and pleaded with him to be good.

Dana Fillingham, the young Charleston pitcher who has just been purchased by the Athletics, shut out Macon on Wednesday, allowing but two hits and striking out 12 batsmen.

Ed Ruelbach and George McConnell refuse to join the down-and-out club. Ruelbach held Otto Knabe's Baltimore Feds to four hits and won an easy victory yesterday for Newark, while McConnell pitched the Chifos to a victory over Kansas City.

MIDSEASON STANDING OF THE FANS



BELATED RUN OF CHANNEL BASS HAS BEGUN; FISHERMEN NOW THROGGING THE COAST OF JERSEY

Game Fish Are Very Late in Showing Up, But Are Plentiful Now—Tips Given on Proper Variety of Bait and Best Places to Make Good Catches—Marvell Bullock Makes Record Catch at Corson's Inlet.

By DR. S. H. LIPSCHUTZ

Table with 4 columns: Date, A.M. P.M., A.M. P.M., A.M. P.M. It lists fishing statistics for various dates in July.

Salt Water News

At last the long looked-for channel bass, that was scheduled to make its appearance on the Jersey coast a month ago, now occupies the attention of the surf fishermen.

Each day brings in fresh news of catches from the different resorts along the coast. The absence of these gummy fish has been, no doubt, due to the terrific storms and the lateness of the season.

Hints to Channel Bass Fishermen

All men that are wedded to fishing for channel bass are more than entitled to "Job" for a middle name, for there is hardly anything in the fishing game that can be compared to it for patience.

The swivel to which the hook is attached should be fastened to a piece of rawhide about two inches long and a half inch wide, this being passed through the end of the line that has a double loop formed to take it. This dipsey, of the pyramid variety, is fastened to a bone ring, procurable at notion counters and allowed to run free on the line.

Where to Go for Channel Bass

Channel bass may be caught at Beach Haven, Whale Beach, Harvey Cedars, Brigantine Beach, Longport, above First street, 14th street, and 16th street, all at Ocean City, Cape May, Delaware Inlet, Avalon, Wildwood Crest, Delaware Bay, off Ship John Light, and as far south as Top Sail Inlet, North Carolina, where as high as twelve to fifteen are caught on a tide.

Record Channel Bass of Season

Mr. J. Maxwell Bullock, of Philadelphia, while fishing at Corson's Inlet on July 6, landed the record fish of the season, a 56-pound channel bass. This beats last year's Field and Stream record by one pound.

Largest Shark Landed

While fishing with George Geis, the guide, at Corson's Inlet, James Hawley, of New York, hooked and landed a monster mackerel shark, weighing 200 pounds.

VETERAN HORSE TRAINER DEAD

Charles Littlefield, Ex-Jockey, Dies in Brooklyn.

WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN BASEBALL TODAY

Table with 4 columns: Club, Won, Lost, Pct., Win-Loss-Split. It lists the current records for various baseball teams.

RUNS SCORED BY MAJORS THIS WEEK

Table with 4 columns: Club, Runs, Hits, Errors, Fielding. It lists the performance of various baseball teams over the week.

Fresh Water Notes

Dr. Edward Kieffer, of Philadelphia, will leave this week for the trout fishing on Saw Creek, at Bushkill, Pa.

Mr. E. T. Henry and wife, of Philadelphia, will motor this coming week-end through the Poconos, and will cast the fly for trout and bass.

News From Maine

William P. M. Brann, of Germantown,

"A RAIN CHECK"

The Game Is on—A Battle Between Pitchers—The Weather Takes a Hand After Six Innings and Seems to Rattle Eli Bates Unnecessarily.

By CHARLES E. VAN LOAN The World's Most Famous Writer of Baseball Fiction.

Red Lynch and Jake Hartwell, tall-shouldered out of western baseball, threw the game on which they had bet, decided to get the limit. In Tucson, Ariz., they appear as casual strangers.

Why describe the first six innings? Pete Moreno drove the few Bibles men crazy when he struck out White in the third inning and followed by making the pitcher Eli hit a weak foul back of first base.

Considering it as a contest between pitchers, it was a remarkable exhibition, but Tucson unhesitatingly awarded premier honors to Eli, the incomparable.

At the end of the sixth inning, White found a chance to whisper to Eli: "Better let 'em go in this inning," he whispered. "It's clouding up, and there may be a storm. Slip in one or two runs, and it'll stiffen this Mexican's backbone."

From him nine times out of 10, and of course, that was why Eli tried to nab Culpepper off first base by throwing with all the strength in his arm.

Smiling Kelly missed two mighty swings and then rolled one gently down the first-base line. Mouse McBoe reached second base, but the Tucson man knew that there was no time to play for single runs.

White straightened up with the ball when Joe was almost on the sack, and slammed away, a wild, blind heave of force that was what Eli offered him.

It was a starting bit of fielding for the crowd, and a still more startling bit of fielding for Eli himself. And there was the ball at his feet, and Joe Dorsey was hal way between third and the plate.

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Advertisement for 'EVENING LEDGER MOVIES' featuring 'SALL RIGHT, PHILS; WE ARE STILL WITH YOU, BUT GET TOGETHER, GET TOGETHER'. Includes cartoon illustrations of people and text like 'ONE P.M. AND ALL'S WELL', 'TWO CHYMES AND ALL IS O.K.', 'THREE O-KLOK AND -I QUIT!', 'GAME TODAY BAWL PARK', 'ATTA BOY STEVE, SLAMMID OUT!', 'BLEE-CHURS'.